

May 20, 1999

Commissioner Jane Henney  
Parklawn Building, Rm. 14-71  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

I urge you to rescind approvals that allow adding to livestock feed Antibiotics that are used in (or related to those used in) human medicine. Adding antibiotics to livestock feed is done routinely to promote faster growth and to cover up poor husbandry methods and hygiene conditions on farms. That use jeopardizes human health by causing the development of antibiotic resistance among bacteria that can be spread to people who consume meat or handle livestock and can be spread into the environment and the water supply.

I urge you to ban the use of medically important antibiotics as feed additives. Currently almost half of all antibiotics used in the U.S. are used in livestock, most of which -- more than 16 million pounds a year -- are used to promote livestock growth.

Your action would go a long way toward protecting these miracle drugs of Modern medicine. I hope the FDA will act quickly -- before the use of antibiotics in livestock results in a major outbreak of antibiotic-resistant food poisoning. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



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